

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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SUBJ: ARTICLE ON ALLEGED US INTERVENTION
IN ISRAELI INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TEXT (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED)
BY DAVAR'S WASHINGTON-BASED CORRESPONDENT BARNEA WHICH
DEPARTMENT MAY FIND OF INTEREST. ARTICLE, ENTILED "FLATTER
AND RULE." APPEARED IN APRIL 2 EDITION OF DAVAR.

2. BEGIN TEXT: IT COULD PERHAPS BE CALLED "VIETNAM EYNDROME".
THE US ADMINISTRATION, APPREHENSIVE ABOUT EFFORTS INVESTED
IN A DISTANT REGION, FEELS NEED TO INTERVENE IN INTERNAL POLITICAL
AFFAIRS OF THE STATE DEPENDING ON IT. IN FIRST STAGE IT DOES LITTLE:
HEADS OF US ADMINISTRATION, BEING CONSCIOUS OF THEIR POPULARITY
AND IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THEIR OPINION IN THAT DISTANT STATE,
BEGIN TO SHOWER COMPLIENTS ON HEADS OF THOSE POLITICIANS
WHO ARE " CONVENIENT" FOR THEM. THE POLITICIANS IN TURN ARE
GRATEFUL.

3. THIS PROCESS IS NOW BEGINNING TO BE DISCERNED IN US RELATIONS
WITH ISRAEL. IT SEEMS THAT THREE PHENOMENA, WHICH DERIVE FROM
YOM KIPPUR WAR, HAVE GIVEN PROCESS GREATER MOMENTUM:
(A) US MILITARY EFFORTS AND INVOLVEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST HAVE
REACHED NEW DIMENSIONS, MORE PROFOUND AND MORE OBLIGATING
THAN IN PAST; (B) POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND ATMOSPHERE OF IMMINENT
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CHANGE HAVE AROUSED SUPSPICION AND APPREHENSION OF US ADMINISTRATION

ABOUT FUTURE OF US EFFORTS IF INTERNAL PRESSURE IN ISRAEL DOES NOT RELAX, OR IF ISRAEL UNDERGOES PROLONGED PERIOD OF " CHANGE OF GUARD;" AND (C) ISRAEL'S GROWING DEPENDENCE ON US WEAPONS, FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND POLITICAL SUPPORT HAVE BEGUN TO BE REFLECTED IN CHARACTER OF CONTACTS BETWEEN ISRALI AND US PERSONALITITES. PROBLEM OF " PROCRASTINATION" IN CONFIRMING AID, APART FROM ITS POLITICAL ASPECTS, HAS AN INFLUENCE ON PLANNING OF ISRAEL' DAILY LIFE. FROM NOW ON ANY REFERENCE BY LEADERS OF US ADMINISTRATION TO ISRAEL'S PROBLEM IS NOT ONLY OF POLITICAL BUT ALSO OF VITAL EXONOMIC WEIGHT.

4. OF COURSE, STATE DEPARTMENT DID NOT " DISCOVER" ISRAEL'S INTERNAL POLITICS YESTERDAY. AMERICAN EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV HAS FOR MANY YEARS BEEN FOLLOWING CLOSELY AND DAILY THE HEBREW PRESS, PARTY ACTIVITIES, ETC. CONTENTS OF HEBREW NEWSPAPERS ARE BEING CABLED DAILY TO WASHINGTON AND ARE PAINSTAKINGLY ANALYZED. DR. HENRY KISSINGER, WHOSE SENSITIVITY TO PRESS HAS GONE BEYOND BORDERS OF US, CAME MORE THAN ONCE WITH COMPLAINTS TO ISRAELI PERSONALITIES ABOUT ARTICLES WRITTEN IN ISRAELI PRESS (THE ISRAELIS, TO PHEIR GREAT EMBARRASSMENT, DID NOT ALWAYS KNOW WHAT ARTICLES HE WAS TALKING ABOUT...).

5. FIRST SIGN OF MODEST ATTEMPTS TO GO OVER FROM ANALYZING WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ISRAEL TO OPEN INFLUENCE CAME ON EVE OF KNESSET ELECTIONS, WHEN KISSINGER SAID AT A NUMBER OF CLOSED FORUMS THAT HE WAS SURE AND CONFIDENT THAT GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WOULD CONTINUE IN ITS EXISTING PATTERN AFTER ELECTION. DURING LENGTHY CRISIS IN CONNECTION WITH FORMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT, HE EXPRESSED HIS " CONCERN" TO JOURNALISTS WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM ON HIS TOUR. WHEN THE GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED, IT RECEIVED CONGRATULATIONS FROM KISSINGER'S ASSISTANT, JOSEPH SISCO, WHEN HE SAID THAT HE WAS SURE THAT GOLDA MEIR'S GOVERNMENT " WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY STRONG TO TAKE APPROPRIATE DECISIONS." ON TWO OCCASIONS KISSINGER PUBLICLY JOINED IN THESE CONGRATULATIONS.

6. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT INTEREST SHOWN BY US STATE DEPARTMENT IN WHAT GOES ON IN ISRAEL HAS REACHED A NEW STAGE AT END OF LAST WEEK, DURING MOSHE DAYAN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. KISSINGER SAW FIT TO SAY THAT HE WAS " EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED" WHEN HE HEARD THAT DAYAN WAS LIABLE NOT TO BE A MEMBER OF THE

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GOVERNMENT. KISSINGER EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT DAYAN'S ROLE WOULD BE " POSITIVE" IN THE FUTURE TALKS.

7. ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO BA A KISSINGER EXPERT TO KNOW THAT HIS FLATTERY AND COMPLIMENTS WERE, AS ALWAYS, WELL DIRECTED THIS TIME THE ADDRESS WAS IN TEL AVIV AND JERUSALEM. PEOPLE IN ISRAEL, WHO READ WITH AMAZEMENT THE HEADLINES FROM WASHINGTON, COULD ONLY GUESS WHAT DAYAN WAS

DOING, IN HIS PRESENT SITUATION, AGAINST BACKGROUND OF HIS BEING A " HAWK" TO BECOME SUCH A CONVENIENT TARGET FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S FLATTERY. HOWEVER, WITHOUT ANY CONNECTION WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN ISRAEL, THIS VERY INVOLVEMENT IS AN INDICATION OF BEGINNING OF A PROCESS THAT GIVES RISE TO CONCERN.

8. ADMITTEDLY, ONE COULD SAY IT WASN'T AMERICANS WHO STARTED IT. FOR YEARS, ISRAELI HEADS OF GOVERNMENT USED TO BEGIN THEIR ELECTION CAMPAIGN WITH A VISIT TO US. ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES, FOR THEIR PART, DID NOT WANT TO REVEAL THEIR OPINION ON INTERNAL US AFFAIRS AT HEIGHT OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN HERE. IT WAS AMBASSADOR RABIN WHO PROPOSED TO AMERICAN JEWS THAT THEY SUPPORT NIXON DURING HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN 1972, THE INTERVENTION IN OTHER COUNTRIES' INTERNAL AFFAIRS WAS A MISTAKE WHEN IT WAS DONE BY ISRAELIS OR BY AMERICANS. DIFFERENCE IS, THAT RABIN'S ACT WAS A ONE-TIME EVENT, WHILE KISSINGER'S INTERVENTION, SO IT SEEMS, IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE, THE MORE US OBLIGATIONS AND HIS PERSONAL COMMITMENT OT A CERTAIN POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST BECOME MORE PROFOUND. END TEXT
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